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# The GUARDIAN.

*Quin potius pacem æternam pactosque hymenæos*
*Exercemus* ——————— Virg.

*Friday, September* 4. 1713.

THERE is no Rule in *Longinus* which I more admire, than that wherein he advises an Author who would attain to the Sublime, and writes for Eternity, to consider, when he is engaged in his Composition, what *Homer* or *Plato*, or any other of those Heroes in the Learned World, would have said or thought upon the same Occasion. I have often practised this Rule, with regard to the best Authors among the Ancients, as well as among the Moderns: With what Success I must leave to the Judgment of others, I may at least venture to say, with Mr. *Dryden*, where he professes to have imitated *Shakespear*'s Stile, that in imitating such great Authors I have always excelled my self.

I have also by this means revived several antiquated ways of Writing, which though very instructive and entertaining, had been laid aside, and forgotten for some Ages. I shall in this Place only mention those Allegories wherein Virtues, Vices and human Passions are introduced as real Actors. Though this kind of Composition was practised by the finest Authors among the Ancients, our Countryman *Spencer* is the last Writer of Note who has applied himself to it with Success.

That an Allegory may be both delightful and instructive; in the first place, the Fable of it ought to be perfect, and if possible, to be filled with surprising Turns and Incidents. In the next, there ought to be useful Morals and Reflections couched under it, which still receive a greater Value from their being new and uncommon; as also from their appearing difficult to have been thrown into emblematical Types and Shadows.

I was once thinking to have written a whole *Canto* in the Spirit of *Spencer*, and in order to it contrived a Fable of imaginary Persons and Characters. I raised it on that common Dispute between the comparative Perfections and Pre-eminence of the two Sexes; each of which have very frequently had their Advocates among the Men of Letters. Since I have not time to accomplish this Work, I shall present my Reader with the Plan of my Fable, reserving the Embellishments of Verse and Poetry to another Opportunity.

The two Sexes contending for Superiority, were once at War with each other, which was chiefly carried on by their Auxiliaries. The Males were drawn up on the one side of a very spacious Plain, the